

37

REASONS humbly offered to the Honourable House of Commons, to demonstrate, that a limited Exportation of Wool will be of publick benefit to his Majesty, and the Nation, and no prejudice to the Manufacture.

I. **T**hat the Exportation of Wool hath been from time to time allowed, ever since the 14th. year of Ed. 3. until the year 1647. See the Statutes 15 Ed. 3^d. 5 chap. 31 Ed. 3^d. chap. 8. 38 Ed. 3. 2. 43 Ed. 3. 1. 14 R. 2. 5. 8 H. 6. 18. 1 Jac. 33.

II. That there was never any want of Wool for Manufacture, during the time of Exportation, nor Complaint of the Cloathier that Wool was wanting, or Manufacture endangered, until 1647.

III. That when it was lawful to export *English* Wool, no *Irish* Wool was brought into *England*, but such as was brought into *English* Staples, in order to be transported. 27 Ed. 3. 18 43. Ed. 3. 1.

IV. Considering what quantity of *Spanish*, and other Forreign Wool is now used, and considering what sort of Cloathes are now made, we do not consume of our own *English* Wool in such thin broad fine Cloaths, above a third part of that quantity, which was spent thirty years ago in broad Cloaths, so that although our growth be encreased, our consumption is lessened, and the Manufacture, by reason of the deceitfulness in Cloath-making prejudiced: Now we humbly submit to the judgment of this Honourable House, what shall be done with the overplus of Wool which is not manufactured? There being at this very instant four or five years Wool in several Grafiers hands, yet some Wool hath been lately sold at four Pounds one Shilling the Pack, which sort of Wool formerly hath yielded twelve Pounds the Pack.

Now if this Honourable House of Commons shall think fit, by an Act of Parliament with limitations, to prohibit all his Majesties Subjects to transport Wool, and permit all Forreign Merchants to come into this Kingdom, between the first day of November, and the 25th. day of March, to buy and transport Wool, paying such moderate Custom to His Majesty as this House shall think reasonable: It is humbly conceived, that the price of Wool will rise, His Majesties Customs will be certainly encreased, and the Rents of Land improved: Which permission of Forreigners to buy and transport, is according to former Statutes here recited, (*viz.*) 27 Ed. 3. 1, 2. 38 Ed. 3^d. chap. 2. 14 R. 2^d. chap. 5. 2 H. 5. 6. 2 H. 6. 4. 4 Ed. 4. 4. 22 H. 8. 1. 1 Eliz. 19. 1 Jac. 33. and many others.

50